6/12/69

Dr. James Rhoads
Archivist of the United States
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Rhoads,

It is now more than six weeks since your unfulfilled promise to respond promptly to my request for a copy of the memorandum of transfer referred to in the Clark panel report, more than three weeks since I wrote you about this, and two months since my original request. I submit it is hardly within your power to more seriously interfere with research, scholarship or writing. When I made the original request, prepared as I with with ample examples of impropriety and violations of its own regulations by the government, I anticipated there might be a reluctance to let me have that to which I am properly entitled. I therefore asked that if it were not provided promptly, I would be given a written explanation of the denial. You, personally, gave me this same assurance six weeks ago. You have not kept your word.

Recently, when my letters of request have been responded to at all, a delay of two months has not been uncommon. This, it seems to me, is calculated to have its obvious effect, to seriously interfere with the work upon which I am engaged. It certainly is not your custom with others, save, perhaps, for a few of my associates. It certainly is not necessary, for I have often been assured there is no manpower shortage on this archive. And it is only but honest and forthright behavior by the government that so loudly protests it has nothing to hide and is hiding nothing.

I hereby again ask for this memorandum or an explanation for denying it to me.

You told me more than six weeks ago that all my requests had been responded to, telling me that a check had them recently been made. Without careful examination of my files, I recall requests going back to January 5 that are without response. When I told you, personally, that there were unanswered questions you said you would check into it. By now it should be clear even to you that you have totally abandoned even the pretense of scholarship in your administration of the National Archives, have intruded government policy, if not your own personal attitudes. The requirements of honest, impartial, scholarly administration of your agency are inconsistent with your practices, which are to interfere with research not congenial to official preconceptions.

It has become almost a futility to request what is properly mine and that of every other American. However, the government permits no alternative save to bow to its obvious will that its falsehoods not be questioned. This I cannot and will not do. I therefore ask for all documents relating to CD47:8-9, including all others relating to or dealing with Bill Cerley, Luke Lester and any investigation of the matters of reference, including license number 31L0WF.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg